

7-21-2010

Draft of letter from W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] to Second Auditor's Office, regarding: disputes disallowed payment for forage from accounts of A. Massias. April 20, 1840

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/beaumont_1840



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Draft of letter from W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] to Second Auditor's Office, regarding: disputes disallowed payment for forage from accounts of A. Massias. April 20, 1840. Beaumont, William. Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives. Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, Missouri. http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/beaumont_1840/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Correspondence (1807-1879) at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1840 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact engeszer@wustl.edu.

Sir

St Louis Mo
Apl 20th 1840

Yr communication of 31st ultimo, referring to a previous one of 9th October, relative to a charge of \$6.96 made against me by the 2^d Comptroller, in the settlement of Pay Master Massie's accounts, has been rec^d. It is now, from common courtesy & kind feeling towards you, as Auditor & Organ: of his presumptuous decision against the correctness of my account, respectfully acknowledged and replied to.

I admit no authority or justifiable cause for the disallowance of the "sum paid me for arrears of forage, for one additional horse from 5th to 31st July 1838. as allowed by act of Congress," upon his absurd & gratuitous "presumption, that I kept no greater number of horses than the previous law allowed" - as well might he have presumed to disallow my whole forage account, upon the same vague pretext & supposition, that I kept no horses - for he had no other data to govern his opinion & belief than my certificate attached to the account

(for the falsity of which the Rules & Regulations of
the Army prescribe the remedy) - Some known
precedent of the kind among officers. much
near Head Quarters - or, suggestions from
Pay Master Maffias himself - than which,
nothing, in ^{the} ordinary course of common pre-
dence & safe precaution, would be less apt
to occur, as it was as well known ~~to~~ ^{to} him
& this community generally, that I owned
^{used & kept} ~~in service~~ ^{four} my full complement of ~~four~~ horses
from, & ~~before~~ ^{from} before, the passage of the act of
5th July 1838, as it was that Pay Mr Maffias
kept but one, & that on short rations.

I have drawn no allowance for forage
that was not legally & justly due me. My
certificate upon the Pay Account was correct
& just & true - I ~~had~~ ^{owned} & kept ~~one~~ ^{well fed & groomed} ~~four~~
four horses, at the moment the act was
passed & for months previous, ready, as I
always have been, & hope ever may be, right-
fully to avail myself of the advantage of
any allowance awarded by Law or Regulation,
from the moment of its enactment, without
recourse to subterfuge, stratagem or evasion,
or even any necessity of having my acts
criticised & curtailed, ^{by any accountant} upon more presumption

of error, however common such precedents may have
been with others in the Department. to counteract the
suspicion of petty fraud & false Certificate in the mind
of the Comptroller, in ^{the present} ~~my~~ case. I am not justly
chargable with any arrearage ^{for} ~~off~~ forage overdrawn,
therefore, I have neither occasion nor inclination
to refund & pay over to a Paymaster \$6.96. to obtain
& forward his Receipt & "I know my rights &
privileges. & knowing, shall endeavor to maintain
them - "It is to be presumed"; that the I^d Comptroller
will reconsider his decision, cancel my account,
& better inform himself in future, before he pre-
sumes to ~~make~~ ^{make} an Office of his just allowances.

I am the correct Keeper of my own accounts &
Comptroller of my own conscience, actuated by motives
of honor & rectitude, amenable to the Tribunal of
truth & justice, the Laws of Congress, & the Regulations
of the Army, for any dereliction of duty, fidelity or
honesty in my official acts or public accounts, &
not to the suspicious presumption of accountants
of any Department - I was not indebted one cent
to government. ^{Honest} Indignation spurs at the Comptroller's
charge, & the source from whence it emanated.

I am ready & able to defend myself when necessary.
but not to submit to the decision -

I am, Sir, very Respectfully
yrs ob. Servant H B

William Beaumont
June 20. 1840